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April 18, 1991

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist *HWS*

RE: Field Inspection and Meeting, Bingham Pit, M/035/002, Kennecott Utah Copper, Salt Lake County, Utah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: April 16, 1991
Time of Inspection: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Conditions: Cool, sunny, wet in spots
Attendees: Bart Kale, Paul Rokich, Cindy Emmons, Kennecott Utah Copper (KUC); Holland Shepherd, DOGM

This inspection was performed mainly to evaluate the proposed areas to be reclaimed this 1991 field season. The operator submitted the required annual reclamation plan on March 20, 1991. The plan describes 9 acres to be reclaimed by KUC this year. During the course of this inspection, we looked at all but two of the proposed sites: #1, the Lark Tailings and #8, the Arthur Concentration site.

After the field inspection, I met with Cindy Emmons, Director of Environmental Affairs for KUC. A discussion concerning the proposed annual reclamation plan was conducted, and other outstanding reclamation issues were briefly discussed.

Two major changes are being made on site which have a bearing on the annual reclamation plan:

- 1) the SE corner of the 5,000 acre tailings pond is being reconstructed into a step-back dike structure. This area will involve 300 acres of reclamation. The purpose of the reclamation is to stabilize blowing tailings, aesthetics, and probably mitigate safety concerns associated with the viscosity of the dike material and the growing height of the impoundment; and

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2) a new leach process pond has been constructed, along with the draining and reconstruction of the old Bingham Reservoir. Material will be mucked out of the old reservoir bottom, placed on top of existing waste dumps, then revegetated.

As a note of interest, neither one of these major changes to the existing MRP have been noticed by the operator nor approved by this Division. I believe other state agencies have been participating in the evaluation and permitting of these sites at Kennecott.

I expressed my concern to the operator that not more was being done with the waste dumps, regarding the annual reclamation plan. Apparently, the only dump area which is not currently active or will not be reactivated in the future is the Copper Notch Dump. However, KUC does have some very extensive dump areas which have been inactive for several years. Also, KUC plans no different approach to dump designs, which would allow for better reclamation in the future.

Given the above qualifications concerning the annual plan, I expressed my satisfaction with it overall, and said that the Division was in accord with KUC in implementing it.

A Board presentation on May 23, 1991, concerning the annual plan was discussed and committed to by the operator.

Ms. Emmons expressed a desire to continue concentrating on water quality control and mitigation program, currently being developed at KUC. She mentioned this would be completed by year's end and that this should be a priority of KUC's before initiating any other large projects.

I mentioned that other issues remained to be addressed and we would need to set up another meeting between KUC and Division staff. I indicated sometime prior to the next Board meeting would be a good time.

cc: Lowell Braxton
Wayne Hedberg
Tony Gallegos

jb
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